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HUNGARY INTRODUCES RATIONING;  
FOOD SUPPLIES IMPROVE

BUDAPEST FOOD SITUATION IMPROVES -- Budapest, Nepszava, 24 Dec 50

An increase in supplies, together with the introduction of order blanks, has resulted in ending the potato shortage in Budapest. Order blanks were issued in four series and the industrial workers are entitled to purchase 40 kilograms of potatoes on order blank No 1 and 30 kilograms each on order blanks No 2, 3, and 4. Along with the introduction of the order blank system, sufficient potato supplies were made available in the public markets. As a result, the population of Budapest was able to purchase enough potatoes for the whole winter and at present there is an excess supply of potatoes.

There was also improvement in sugar distribution last September, when the new sugar was released for sale. When a new wave of panic set in, however, last November, there were long queues in front of the state stores waiting for sugar, flour, and eggs. This panic, which was the work of the enemy, came to an end when the party and the government took action and introduced the order blank system. The queues disappeared and many families did not take up even the flour, sugar, and egg rations to which they were entitled. Final data are not available, but preliminary figures show that over 5,000 families did not order eggs, over 2,000 families dispensed with their flour rations, and many families did not take up their sugar allotments. At present, plenty of flour and sugar is also available in the free market.

The enemy also caused a flurry in butter distribution during the summer, but subsequently, when butter supplies were plentiful in the state stores and in the public markets, the demand stopped suddenly. Currently, some of the butter in the state stores remains unsold because of lack of demand.

RATIONS SUGAR AND FINE FLOUR -- Budapest, Nepszava, 3 Jan 51

The Hungarian Council of Ministers has issued a regulation providing that sugar and fine flour may be bought partly on ration cards and partly in the free market, beginning 1 January 1951. The rations are shown in the following table.

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	<u>Budapest and Population Centers</u>		<u>Other Areas</u>	
	<u>Sugar</u>	<u>Fine Flour</u> (kg per person)	<u>Sugar</u>	<u>Fine Flour</u>
Workers performing heavy physical labor; high state officials; plant managers and executives; Stakhano- vites; decorated state employees	1.20	2.40	1.00	2.40
Other workers and employees of state enterprises, agencies, and institutions	1.00	1.60	0.80	1.60
Children under 12 years	0.75	1.20	0.75	1.20
Pregnant and nursing mothers:				
1. Performing heavy physical labor or key workers in state enterprises	1.65	2.40	1.45	2.40
2. Other employees of state enterprises	1.45	1.65	1.25	1.60
3. Other workers	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.20
Rest of population	0.75	1.20	0.55	1.20

PRICES FOR RATIONED SUGAR, FLOUR UNCHANGED -- Budapest, Friss Ujsag, 4 Jan 51

The prices for rationed sugar and flour remain unchanged. Prices in the open market have been fixed at 12 forints per kilogram for granulated sugar and 13.60 forints per kilogram for lump sugar. The price for fine flour in the open market has been fixed at 5.20 forints per kilogram.

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